



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

February 22, 2007

Los Angeles County
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF JURY SERVICE
REQUIREMENT FOR METROCARE INPATIENT BED
AGREEMENT WITH DOWNEY REGIONAL MEDICAL
CENTER**

Bruce A. Chernof, MD
Director and Chief Medical Officer

John R. Cochran III
Chief Deputy Director

Robert G. Splawn, MD
Senior Medical Director

This is to request your Board to make a finding of special circumstances allowing the waiver of the Jury Service Program which is a standard requirement for a MetroCare Agreement with Downey Regional Medical Center (DRMC).

Need for DRMC MetroCare Agreement

On November 28, 2006, your Board authorized the execution of various agreements related to the implementation of MetroCare. While the Department has made significant progress in contracting with private sector hospitals for medical and surgical inpatient beds, including St. Francis, St. Vincent, and White Memorial Medical Centers for a total of 70 beds, there is still a need for the Department to acquire additional inpatient beds which are in close proximity to Martin Luther King, Jr. – Harbor hospital (MLK-Harbor). These additional beds are urgently needed to ensure continuity of care for MLK-Harbor patients.

Because DRMC is located relatively close to MLK-Harbor (approximately 8 miles), the transfer of MLK-Harbor patients can be quickly and efficiently coordinated. An additional benefit is that family members and relatives should be able to visit MLK-Harbor patients transferred to DRMC with minimal difficulty because of the geographic proximity.

Short-term, one-time Contract with DRMC

The finding of special circumstances for a Jury Service Program waiver is a one-time, limited exception that will end on November 30, 2007, when the Agreement with DRMC expires.

Justification for Waiver

Although DRMC provides a rich employee benefit program which does accommodate jury service for most employees, DRMC does not technically comply with the ordinance which requires 5 paid days for jury service.

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DRMC provides "Paid Time Off" benefits for their employees which can be used to cover any personal time off including jury duty. Since these benefits are earned based on hours worked each pay period, there will always be some percentage of new employees who have not earned sufficient time off to fully cover a jury service assignment.

In addition, because the length of the contract term is relatively short, DRMC feels that requiring them to institute a new jury service program to meet the County's requirement would not be feasible.

The Department feels that DRMC is one of the hospitals in the area which is best positioned to partner with MLK-Harbor in the implementation of MetroCare, and that since DRMC does accommodate jury service to a large degree, a waiver under these circumstances would be appropriate.

Fiscal Impact

The funding for the MetroCare Agreement with DRMC will be covered within existing appropriations for MetroCare as approved by your Board on November 28, 2006.

In consideration of the above, under item A-3 on your Board's agenda of February 27, 2007, I will be requesting that your Board find that:

Special circumstances exist sufficient to waive the Contractor Employee Jury Service Program Ordinance, Chapter 2.203 of the County Code, for a MetroCare Inpatient Bed Agreement with DRMC. The special circumstances are: 1) the waiver is limited and short term; 2) DRMC has a generous employee paid time off program in place; 3) DRMC has determined that it would not be feasible to implement a new jury service program for a contract with a relatively short term; and 4) the Department considers the acquisition of DRMC's inpatient beds critical to meeting the MetroCare Plan goal of continuity of care for MLK-Harbor patients.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

BAC:mds
DRMC

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors